

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/531,571

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

JAGDISH PATEL

3624

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response filed 10/3/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-10 and 33.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is in response to amendment filed 10/3/2005

#### ***Response to Amendment***

2. Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 33 are pending and have been allowed.

#### ***Reasons for Allowance***

3. Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 33 pertain to a method for notifying an outside billing vendor of a change in customer status when a customer contacts the merchant to change her service but fails to contact the outside vendor.

The following prior art references have been deemed most relevant to the allowed claim(s):

Ahlberg (US 6587836) discloses a web-based system for processing administrative and order entry functions for an integrated suite of services and products over the Internet and providing an online system for order entry and administration over the Internet allow improved flexibility to a customer when managing their telecommunications accounts. For instance, the customer may effect desired changes in their accounts, in real time and instantaneously, by utilizing the system of the present invention.

Jost et al. (US 6778651) teaches a service management system for a communications network which accepts requests for communications services from service order sources. The service management system includes an interface to the service order sources, a database, and an interface to network elements which provide the communications services. The service order sources may have differing order input formats which are converted by the system into a single internal format for processing and determining of provisioning information to be output to the network-elements.

Ahlberg and Jost patents as discussed above as the Closest Prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a method of notifying an electronic billing vendor of customer status changes that involve account numbers stored for customers which comprises creating electronic service order entries within a service order computer system of a service provider based on the service orders received from the customers requiring account number change, the account number being used by the computer system of the electronic billing vendor, wherein information is included within each electronic service order to indicate that the account number has changed for the customer when the service order results in the account number change and flagging the electronic service order entries that corresponds to electronic billing customers so that flagged service entries correspond to electronic billing customers and the electronic service order entries that are not flagged correspond to non-electronic billing customers, storing the electronic service order entries in a computer update file, searching the computer update file for flagged entries that include the information that indicates an account number change, and creating a new file that includes the flagged entries, reformatting the flagged electronic service order entries of the new file to a record format compatible with the billing computer system of the electronic billing vendor and transmitting the reformatted flagged entries of the new file that include the information that indicates account changes to the billing computer system of the electronic billing vendor.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 3624

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

EGENDORF (WO 97/03410) teaches an Internet billing method comprises establishing an agreement between an Internet access provider (2) and a customer (4), and an agreement between the provider and a vendor, wherein the provider (2) agrees with the customer (4) and the vendor (5) to bill the customer (4) and remit to the vendor (5) for products and services purchased over the Internet (1) by the customer (4) to the vendor (5).

Billing Services Aren't The Same Old Song & Dance (Company Business and Marketing); Wireless Data News, v8, n5; March 1, 2000. This article teaches software billing provided by billing vendors which provide services to customers.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAGDISH PATEL whose telephone number is (571) 272-6748. The examiner can normally be reached on 800AM-600PM M-Th.

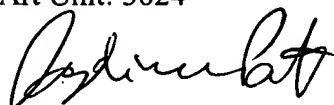
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (571)272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 517-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 09/531,571

Page 5

Art Unit: 3624

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jagdish N. Patel', written in a cursive style.

Jagdish N. Patel

(Primary Examiner, AU 3624)

12/06/2005